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ET GUIDE TO

# NEW CALEDONIA



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*Prepared by*

SPECIAL SERVICE DIVISION, ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ARMY

POCKET GUIDE TO

# NEW CALEDONIA



WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



*A Sportsman's Paradise*

## A SHORT GUIDE TO NEW CALEDONIA

### CONTENTS

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction . . . . .                          | 1  |
| Meet Our Allies . . . . .                       | 6  |
| Getting Along in New Caledonia . . . . .        | 14 |
| "The French Australia" . . . . .                | 25 |
| Miscellaneous Information . . . . .             | 37 |
| Hints on Speaking French . . . . .              | 40 |
| List of Most Useful Words and Phrases . . . . . | 43 |
| Additional Words and Phrases . . . . .          | 49 |
| Special Notes on New Caledonia . . . . .        | 57 |



#### INTRODUCTION

YOU and your outfit have come to New Caledonia not only as friends to help guard the strategic interest of the United Nations in a distant and vital corner of the world, but virtually as discoverers.

This island of the Free French has been the home of Frenchmen for more than a century, but few Americans have been there, and few know anything about it. This guidebook now in your hand is the first guide of any kind ever published to inform Americans on New Caledonia. Its purpose is to introduce you to the country and facilitate your learning more about a people whose love of freedom is as great as our own. If you are an alert soldier, the time should come quickly when you know more

about the country than is to be found in the guidebook. That should be your aim. Your efficiency will amount according to the accuracy of your information. The more you learn of New Caledonia, the better you discharge your duty as an American.

The position of this island is of great importance to the security of our country. One glance at the map will tell you why. To win the war, we must keep the freedom of the seas and continue the movement of our fighting materials to our allies and to our own forces. New Caledonia stands guard over the Pacific lifeline which joins our strength with Australia and with the Dutch who still give battle to the enemy in some of the islands of the East Indies.

You are fortunate that this island is to be your station for the time being. New Caledonia is the only island in the western South Seas which is wholly free of fever. The public health problems are minor. If you take care of yourself, you will thrive on the island, and will find yourself among friends. The trail has been well blazed for you. The conduct of your fellow soldiers in New Caledonia has been good. They have not only adjusted themselves easily to their situation but have won the respect and admiration of the New Caledonians. The men of the New Caledonia command are anxious to get at the

enemy. They believe that they are the best soldiers in the Pacific. When men think that way, so they are.

The New Caledonia natives are your loyal comrades in arms. Some of them are wearing the uniform of your country, wearing it proudly, and speaking eagerly of themselves as American forces. They have become associated with our arms to serve as guides and service corps troops. The American troops in New Caledonia wear khaki. The New Caledonia natives (and this term will be used throughout the guide to designate the original inhabitants) who are serving with us ask for a modified O. D. uniform because they do not like the feel of cotton. For the first 2 years after the fall of France the New Caledonia natives took less than a moderate interest in the war. Then with the forming of forces for the Coral Sea battle the whole issue in the Southwest Pacific became clouded by doubt, and they flocked to our colors by the scores because they were ready to fight. Some of these dark-skinned men are warriors who have won decorations on the battlefields of France during the First World War. Mutual respect between you will develop naturally.

Three flags now fly over New Caledonia—the tricolor of the old French Republic, the Lorraine Cross, symbol of the Fighting French, and the Stars and Stripes, which will continue to command the esteem of the New Cale-



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donians as your personal attitude and behavior merit it.

New Caledonia has been a French colony since 1853. When the French Republic collapsed in 1940 the Governor of the colony wanted to string along with Vichy. But the plain people drove him out of the colony and set up a government to work with General de Gaulle.

**Just Suppose.** Let us suppose for a minute that New Caledonia had taken the opposite course, and played the pliable Vichy game the way French Indochina did. You remember what happened there. Indochina opened her doors to the Japanese (for "protection") and right away they began to build airports and establish garrisons. That surrender destroyed the balance of military power in the Pacific and led to defeat in Malaya, the Philippines, and the Dutch East Indies.

If the same thing had happened in New Caledonia, the results would have been as bad or worse for us. For this cigar-shaped island lies only 750 miles across the Coral Sea from Australia. Given possession of this key spot, the Japanese might have been able to knock out Australia before now and certainly would have blocked our present route across the Southwest Pacific. The job of running the Japanese out of the East Indies, tough as it is now, would have been many times as difficult.

**Mineral Treasure-House.** There's another mighty important reason why New Caledonia must be held. For its size—acre for acre, mile for mile—it has the richest mineral resources of any country in the world—nickel, chromite, cobalt, and iron. Those are magic words in this man's war. If Japan could get her hands on those minerals, some of her supply worries would be eased. If we should lose them—it might mean shortages for some of our most vital war industries back home. Many an American plane and munitions factory is dependent today on nickel and chrome from New Caledonia.

That's the chance the initiative of the New Caledonians has given us—and the great responsibility. When you get to New Caledonia, you will find that your fellow Americans have great admiration for what the islanders have done in the war. By their courage in the face of danger they have already saved us from serious military defeat and have thrown a monkey wrench into the Japs' machinery.

#### MEET OUR ALLIES

IT'S a little misleading to speak of our New Caledonian allies as one people. Really they are several peoples together—though you will find they are equally friendly, equally strong for our side and against the Japanese and

Hitler. Likewise, they are strong for one another. New Caledonia is remarkably free from race prejudices. The Caledonians don't ask what a man looks like. They ask: "What can he do?" It is a good question.

We and the New Caledonians have a common cause. We are fighting together against the so-called "new order" of Hitler and Hirohito in all its brutal forms. BUT, there are a lot of small differences between us. With your consistent help these items can be minimized and the solidification of our Pacific front can be continued.

You will want to know what kind of people you are going to meet. New Caledonia is a very thinly populated country. For example, although the colony is a little larger than New Jersey in square miles, it has only 61,000 people—an American football stadium would hold them all—as compared with New Jersey's 4,000,000.



By American standards, the island cannot be called fertile. One-third or more of the total area is too rugged or barren to be of any economic use. Back of the beach the flat lands are apt to be swampy. Thousands of acres in the river valleys, however, are suited to agriculture.

**The French.** There are four major groups of people making up New Caledonia's population. The largest group are the Europeans—meaning mostly French—who are about a third of the total population. This is the largest white population of any single South Pacific island. Here are a few things you should know about them.

First, they are not "colonists," in the accepted sense of the word among people of the South Sea islands. Instead, the French in New Caledonia consider that the island is their home. They like to be called Caledonians. In this respect they are something like the Australians across the Coral Sea. Allowing for differences in language, religion, and custom, you will find among the French in New Caledonia some of the same hearty friendliness and independence that characterizes the Australians—who, in turn, are frequently compared to westerners in America.

The French you will meet are for the most part farmers, shopkeepers, businessmen, and government employees. Externally they are much like corresponding people in

our country. Some have traveled back and forth to France quite a bit, the majority feel deeply rooted in New Caledonia. They speak French and follow the Roman Catholic faith, in the majority. There is also a considerable Protestant group.

Some metropolitan Frenchmen from Paris may tend to look down on the Frenchman from New Caledonia as being an isolated "colonial" but the latter is more often a more practical and democratic person than the man from France.

**The Natives.** The second largest group of people in the island are the native Kanakas (kah-nah-kas). These are a brown-skinned people of mixed Melanesian and Polynesian origin, whose ancestors were the original New Caledonians. Gracetul and fond of singing, they are a cheerful, happy-go-lucky lot. And yet many of their best men volunteered for the Free French forces and are now serving in far parts of the world.

It is something of a problem what to call these people. French writers have referred to them as indigines (natives) or Canaques (from the Polynesian word "kanaka" meaning "man"). However, they dislike the term Canaque, and it should not be used. The people have no general name for themselves other than that of their district



or village—"East Coast People," "Gomo People," and so on. When you are dealing with a man, however, it is quite all right to call him "boy," as this is a widely used term around the islands. The people are accustomed to it.

The New Caledonia natives compose many small tribes, and still retain a strong community loyalty. Up to a few years ago most of the tribesmen spoke only their native tongue, but today many are beginning to speak a "pidgin" form of French. The children go to little church schools in the native villages and speak quite good French. Since American troops began to arrive and the men began to serve with our forces, many of them have picked up English phrases. Those who are in our military services are accustomed to taking orders in English.

Some of the Europeans will tell you that the native islanders are lazy. Perhaps, but there are two ways of looking at it. In New Caledonia the climate is pleasant and without any great extremes. Fish, game, and other foods are easy to get. The island is sparsely settled, with room for all. So when white men wanted to hire the New Caledonia natives for hard labor in the mines, they replied they were getting along all right the way they were and didn't want hard labor. Nevertheless, if you can get their interest, or show them that it is to their own advantage to work or fight you will find them willing and

strong. That is the way we have found them. They are doing much hard work for us.

Most of the New Caledonia natives today are coming to some form of European dress. There is one unusual sight you will see—about half of them have reddish or orange-colored hair. This is not a freak of nature but is caused by rubbing lime, once used to kill parasites, into the roots of the hair. The custom is still followed as a means of tribal adornment.

Today nearly every baby is baptized into the Christian faith, and nature worship and spirit worship are dying out. But some of the old beliefs still persist. One belief is that every person is inhabited by a spirit, or *ko*, which goes travelling while the human body is asleep. If a man should be awakened suddenly—so the belief is—the *ko* might not have time to get back into its body and would get even by going around causing trouble. So the people believe a man should be allowed to sleep until he wakes up of his own accord. It is a point of view with which any man who has to stand reveille can have full sympathy. In any event, be careful about waking natives.

**Javanese and Tonkinese.** Because the native New Caledonians could not be interested in working in the mines, the mine owners imported labor from other parts of the Pa-



cific, from more crowded lands where it was difficult to make a living. About 12,000 of these laborers are in the island according to latest available figures. They are usually imported on 3-year contracts. Some of the laborers renew their contracts and eventually become permanent residents of the country. About two-thirds of the laborers are Javanese, from Java, and one-third Tonkinese, from French Indochina.

Some Javanese women work in the mines along with the men, but most of them do not like it and prefer domestic service. Almost every white family in the island has a Javanese servant. You can usually recognize the Javanese women by their gaily colored sarongs—not quite like Dorothy Lamour's, but more like a skirt, with a blouse covering the upper part of the body. The Java-

nese are Moslems. At home they have been brought up to be highly disciplined, very polite, and respectful of authority. The French regard the Javanese as intelligent workers, but trigger-tempered.

The Tonkinese are from the Tonkin region of Indochina, and are similar to the Chinese in appearance and customs. They also are regarded as reliable workers, and many of them are fine artisans in metal and wood. In religion, the Tonkinese may be Confucian, Taoist, or Buddhist, since all three religions are followed in their homeland.

**Japanese.** The fourth major group in New Caledonia, until Pearl Harbor, were the Japanese. There were about 1,100 on the island. The day after Pearl Harbor, General

de Gaulle declared war on Japan and the Japanese were taken under government control for their own safety. All of them have been evacuated to Australia.

In addition to these four main groups of peoples there are also scatterings of other Europeans and Australians, and the "half-castes." These are the offspring of whites and native New Caledonians. It is not unusual here, as in other parts of the world, to find marriages between Europeans and the aborigines. Some of the half-castes mingle socially with the French.

#### GETTING ALONG IN NEW CALEDONIA

THE best way to get along in New Caledonia is to be friendly, courteous, and considerate. Above all, respect other people's customs and their privacy. You are not going to New Caledonia to change the people or their ways.

**Customs Are Important.** Manners and customs are the first thing to learn when you are in a strange country. Fortunately, New Caledonia is comparatively free from religious taboos which make it difficult for the visitor to get along in many countries. But there are a few things you will want to know. For example, the siesta hour is observed rigidly throughout New Caledonia and all shops and offices are closed tight for a few hours at midday.

The French set great value on being polite. A smile and a salute or a friendly courtesy will go a long way in New Caledonia as elsewhere.

Most of the French in the island are devout and quite conservative in their personal lives. They are family people and you will find that they have a rather strict moral code. In some families it would not be considered proper for a girl to go out on a date unless accompanied by her parents or a chaperone. Our troops understand these customs and respect them. They are not molesters of women.

In dealing with the native New Caledonians, the Javanese, and Tonkinese, it is well to be a little on your dignity. Be friendly but a little restrained.

Most of the natives are devout Catholics, and the priest, who is called a *padre* (PAH-dray), is a very important man. You will find missions in the most remote districts. There are also many nuns who teach the native children and hold them to a strict moral code. In general, the more isolated the native village, the stricter you will find the people, though as said before, they are likely to cling to their native beliefs. They are afraid of the dark and keep fires and light burning at night to keep the devil away. If these beliefs seem funny to you, reflect on whether you have known an American or two who was afraid to go home in the dark.

Among the Javanese and Tonkinese you will find all sorts of religious customs, festivals and observances. The important thing is never to laugh or interfere. Learning about these things is a part of your new life. As a student of New Caledonia, you will of course approach the land and its people with respect, as your comrades already there have done.

There is no problem of haggling or bargaining with the natives to be considered. For one thing, the island has not been frequented by tourists and there are almost no native souvenirs for sale. For another, the whole economic system of the island is now stabilized by price-fixing, which is even more rigid than in your own country.

In normal times the French in New Caledonia live a great deal as we do at home. These are not normal times. The stores in Noumea and the other cities are running on the ragged edge because of a lack of imports. Such products as they have are needed by the native population. It isn't honest poker for an American soldier to compete with them when most of his needs can be supplied at the army canteen.

Liquors of all kinds are extremely scarce. As in peacetimes, the native population was accustomed to the traditional French wines, the scarcity is a greater hardship on them than on the American soldier. A little beer is im-

ported from Australia; it is not especially good beer. Such wine as is to be found is now imported from California. Of soft drinks, there are a few: citron, an orange syrup cut with water, lemon pop and banana pop. Ice is hard to get, there being only two small plants on the island, with a plentiful demand for their product.

Nearly all the native New Caledonians live in villages, called *tribu* (tree-boo). They are generally found in the river valleys, but some are deep in the mountains. The old-style native hut—now rare—is a cone-shaped thatch-rooted affair looking something like a tall beehive. The more common dwelling today, encouraged by the government for reasons of public health, is a rectangular cottage with tin, bark, or thatch roof. The walls are made of wattle and mud, usually painted in bright colors. Woven mats are used as bedding, and the cooking fire is an open hearth on the earth floor. Generally, the villages are tidy and surrounded by flowers. In the hills you will still see the native costume—now also partly Europeanized—which consists, for men, of a shirt and a cotton waistcloth, often brightly colored, called a *manou* (man-oo). The women wear mostly the "Mother Hubbard," introduced into the South Seas by the missionaries. It is a loose cotton dress falling below the knee with elbow length sleeves. The people are fond of bright decorations



and colors and when they are in a festive mood they put on wreaths of flowers and leaves, strings of beads, copper wire, tin bottle tops, or anything else that appeals to them. They decorate their ankles, knees, wrists, and arms as well as their necks and waists.

Around the mines and plantations you will find the laborers—the Javanese and Tonkinese. Dormitories are provided, but many of the laborers prefer to build their own little huts of bark and lumber. There are plenty of children. Outside of work hours, these people keep to themselves and carry on their own ways of living much the same as in their home countries.

**Eating and Drinking.** The French have somewhat different customs of eating than our own. In the morning they

have a *petit déjeuner* (puh-TEE day-zhub-NAY), or "little breakfast," usually consisting of coffee and a roll. Then comes *déjeuner* (day-zhub-NAY), an early lunch. And finally *dîner* (DEE-NAY), the main meal. They drink a great deal of coffee (some is grown on the island) and use rum and light wines in moderation. Despite the shortage of liquor, the New Caledonians retain their rigid ideas about the use of it. It is a social sin to get drunk, and it is a *jail offense to give liquor to a native*.

On the whole, the food eaten by the French is not greatly different from ours. One of the rarities of the island fare is *rousette saute*—flying fox—which tastes like chicken giblets. The native New Caledonians live largely on native products of the country. The Tonkinese and Javanese, however, follow their own customs of cooking and eating. Rice is their staple food, garnished with fish and vegetable sauces. Though beef cattle are plentiful and thousands of head live in a wild state in the interior of the island, the natives prefer potted meats. Some mutton is imported from Australia.

The war has impoverished the island in some ways. The people are wearing shabbier clothing. As their men may be away at war, there is a likelihood that the table fare will be neither as plentiful nor as varied as in normal times. New Caledonians are normally hospitable, and

willing to share what they have with strangers. Now, they can't afford it. Your way of expressing your sympathetic understanding of their situation is to refrain from boasting about the abundance and quality of your own chow.

In a sparsely inhabited land such as Caledonia you are not going to find many bright lights. But there are movies. Noumea has three picture houses which are co-operating with Army Motion Picture Service so that now they are showing the latest Hollywood productions at about the same time they are making their first appearance on Broadway. Your Army is getting these productions to New Caledonia as fast as possible. But unfortunately the capacities of the Noumea theaters are too small to meet the demand adequately.

War has interfered with horse racing which used to be a popular sport in the island. Baseball is being introduced, limited only by the lack of adequate flat spaces elsewhere than near the beaches. The New Caledonians are beginning to take to our national pastime but there is no native phrase for "kill the umpire."

There are numerous bathing beaches, and the water feels fine. The best one is Anse Vata near Noumea because it is protected and therefore shark-proof. At the other beaches, the man-eaters are a hazard to swimmers.

But the best sports are hunting and fishing, and American soldiers doing duty in New Caledonia are finding it a game paradise. Deer are so plentiful that they are regarded as a pest, and may be found grazing with the cattle. In one year, more than 120,000 hides were exported from the island. Soldiers are given as much liberty as they wish to hunt these animals with government ammunition. It is good, live target practice, preparatory to the quest for bigger game of the kind that all soldiers are talking about. But for safety's sake, it is necessary to enforce the local rule that deer shall not be shot in camp, and it is custom to move rifle-shot distance away from any troops before shooting at deer.

There is no closed season on deer, or on wild pigeons, which are plentiful, or on wild duck, which are slightly less so. The only limitation is a shortage of shotgun ammunition in the outfits. Soldiers are encouraged to roam far afield either while hunting, or in mountain-climbing which in New Caledonia is a first-class way to get legged up. Some of our troops have traversed the island in casual parties, and explored nearly every corner of the hinterland. It is worth the doing because the scene is one of rugged grandeur. The mountains are bold, rather barren and precipitous. The passes through them—there being three main routes from one side of the island to the

other—follow the courses of the mountain streams. The mountain highways are suitable for trucks, and the hiking may be either relatively easy or extremely difficult, as one chooses. The interior is considered perfectly safe for our forces.

In New Caledonia our troops are gathering oysters off trees to garnish the company mess. There are no better oysters in the world. They cling to the roots of the mangrove in the tidal rivers, and a hungry soldier comes along, pulls the root up, and eats several dozen on the half shell. Clams are plentiful in the rocks of the small islands in the numerous bays and harbors, and motor launch parties may eat their fill on the spot, or take a supply back to the camp for chowder. Said an American army captain: "There is no better fishing anywhere than along the coast of New Caledonia." The most succulent specimen is a fish not unlike our own red snapper which the French call *loche saumone*, and another popular variety is akin to the sea bass found along our own coast. In September some of the large fish become contaminated by the coral and if eaten will produce a bad skin irritation. The native fishermen will help you identify them.

One sport the New Caledonians enjoy is luring the large spiny lobsters with dead squid. These lobsters

abound in caves under the coral reefs. At low tide the fishermen go to the reefs in bathing trunks, with shoes to protect their feet from the sharp coral, goggles, and gloves to protect their hands from the lobsters. The bait is a dead squid on a pole. The squid is dangled in front of the cave. When the lobsters see the squid they lose all power to move. Another fisherman goes into the pool, with goggles and gloves, and catches them by hand. Smaller shovel-nosed lobsters, confronted with the squid, throw themselves out of the water onto the reefs, where they can be picked up by hand. Both varieties of lobster, though somewhat foolish, are very good eating.

One last word on wildlife: If you see a small bird hopping along the countryside but never taking off, give him a few kind words. The *kagu*, called the national bird of New Caledonia, can't fly and is therefore becoming extinct in an era which has little tolerance for forces which won't take to wings. All might still be well with the *kagu* if he had studied the lessons of this military age.

**News and Reading.** There are plenty of radio sets on the island, and reception is unusually good of short-wave broadcasts from Australia and California. Noumea, at last reports, had two small newspapers. Since the fall of France, however, the people have been short of reading

material in their native language. They are likely to welcome any reading matter, even in English, that you can pass on to them. Your Army magazine, "YANK," being an illustrated weekly, will be especially appreciated by them.

**Language.** In addition to the official French—that of European France—a simplified form of pidgin French is used by some groups. This is a short-cut language. If the natives can pick it up, you can. A helpful list of words and phrases in *regular* French will be found at the end of this guide. You will also hear a little pidgin English, such as is used in the Pacific islands further northwest. This will be even easier to pick up.

#### "THE FRENCH AUSTRALIA"

TRAVELERS who have visited New Caledonia usually say that it is more like Australia in climate and living conditions than it is like the South Sea Islands as we usually think of them. Other visitors have likened it to southern California. The vegetation is in some respects comparable. Three kinds of local trees will catch your eye. The low niaouli (nee-ow-lee), also called the paper bark, is related to the Australian eucalyptus and yields a medicinal essence. The kauri (cow-ree) is in demand for lumber and the slender Captain Cook pine, which grows nowhere else in the world, is something like our tamarack. You will realize the climate never really gets cold when you see the coconut trees which thickly fringe the shores. Their fruit provides a delicious natural drink. However, New Caledonia is a subtropical rather than a tropical island and you will not encounter the extreme heat, humidity, dangerous animals, insect pests, or fevers that make life so difficult in the real tropics. There is, however, one native tree, thin-barked and oozing a very black gum, which affects the skin like poison ivy.

New Caledonia is roughly 250 miles long—farther than New York to Washington—by about 30 wide, with a total area of around 8,000 square miles. It lies 750 miles





from Australia, 900 from New Zealand, 6,500 from California, and 8,000 from the Panama Canal.

Take a look at the map in the center of this guide.

Near the southern tip of the island, slightly up the west coast, lies the capital and principal port, Noumea, with a pre-war population of around 12,000, a little more than half of them whites. Noumea has a landlocked harbor, one of the finest in the South Seas. It was also a pre-war air base of Pan-American Airways (which the New Caledonians call "Panair") on the San Francisco to New Zealand run. It also has the island's principal nickel-smelting plant.

Most of the other towns and villages of any size are also located on the coasts, and many of them have fine though undeveloped harbors. The island is fairly well surrounded by a barrier reef of coral, 1 to 10 miles off shore, which gives natural protection against invasion; but this reef is broken at places, which means that certain points on the coast require alert watching. Down the center of the island runs the principal mountain range, something like our own Teton range, but with magnificent views of the ocean. Wherever the eye roves in New Caledonia, it meets mountain peaks and their slopes come right down to the sea. The highest mountain is Mount Humbolt, 5,361 feet above sea level, near the southern

tip. In these mountains are found New Caledonia's rich mineral resources. Somebody has called the island a solid block of metal.

One of the odd topographical features of New Caledonia which you will notice are the hillocks of shell scattered over many parts of the island adjacent to the seashore. Like the "kitchen middens" of Florida, they are the accumulation of hundreds of years during which the island was used as a feasting ground. Bleached human bones and skulls can sometimes be found in the debris of these hillocks—suggesting a gruesome explanation of the feasting.

Because the prevailing trade winds are from the east, the eastern slope of the mountains receives more rainfall than the western. On this slope the forests are particularly dense. Tree ferns sometimes grow to a height of 60 feet.

**Climate.** The thermometer rarely goes above 90 degrees at any time, or below 60. At Noumea the average mean temperature in January and February (summer in New Caledonia) is 86 degrees. In July and August (winter) it is 75 degrees. Normally, Noumea has about 43 inches of rainfall a year and 131 rainy or partially rainy days out of the 365. Most of the rain falls between February and April. From August through October is the driest time.



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About the only drawbacks to the climate are the tropical hurricanes, of which there are about three a year, usually between December and April. They are usually brief, but can do a lot of damage in a short time. Sometimes torrents of water come down the rivers and destroy roads and isolate whole communities. Lately New Caledonia has had "unusual" weather. For 4 years there has been little rain but bivouac commanders must still take care not to make camp in dry washes.

**Agriculture and Industry.** Although parts of New Caledonia are very fertile, particularly the river valleys, you will find that agriculture is somewhat backward, though improvements have been made in recent years. Coffee is the principal crop. Coconut products come next. The chief domestic animals are the oxen. On the slopes of the mountains are large plantations and ranches where cattle are raised.

New Caledonia tried at one time to capture the Oriental market on beef but missed and the cattle industry has proved a financial failure. The forests, however, yield some wealth. Many fruits, such as lemons and papayas, grow wild. There are also banana plantations but not more than enough fruit to provide for the local population. Some of the native New Caledonians and French

too, make their living by hunting deer and selling their hides to the Australian market. To save gunpowder and cartridges, this hunting is often done by highly trained dogs, which run the deer into ponds or into the sea where they can be caught and dispatched with a knife.

Mining and other forms of industry have been greatly intensified since the war by the introduction of additional machinery. You will see signs of activity on every hand. Nickel is mined in huge open pits in much the same way that we mine copper in Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. Chrome is mined underground in the region of Tiebaghi Mountain whence comes 8 percent of the world supply. There is also an inexhaustible amount of chromite in the sands along New Caledonia's beaches, and as fast as the sand is dug out and treated, the sea washes more up again. A typical chrome plant consists of ordinary tip-trolleys and a grooved steel washing table. The beach sand is shoveled into trucks and rolled along to the grooved table where the chrome is separated from the sand by the simple process of agitating the table under flowing water. The lighter sand is floated off, leaving 55 percent pure chrome on the table.

New Caledonia has some short lengths of narrow-gauge railroad, but visitors say it is kindest not to mention them. Most transportation today is by the roads.

**History and Government.** The great English explorer, Captain Cook, first sighted the island in 1774. Its mountainous appearance reminded him of the Scottish coast, so he gave it the name of New Caledonia—Caledonia being the Latin word for Scotland. In 1853 the French took control and it has been a French colony ever since, together with such nearby smaller islands as the Loyalty group and the Isle of Pines.

Previous to the war its Governor was also the French High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, with control of all the French island colonies over thousands of miles.

Before the war, the Governor was assisted by a General Council of 15 New Caledonian citizens, as well as by a Privy Council of his own department heads. It was the General Council which, in 1940, voted unanimously to join the Free French movement, supported by practically the whole populace, French and native, and thus join the United Nations.

The present Governor is appointed by General de Gaulle, and is assisted by a single council of 12 citizens.

Noumea has a separate municipal administration to carry on its local affairs. The mayor is appointed by the Governor and is advised by an elected municipal council. The other main settlements are governed by elected municipal commissions, each under a prominent local person

as President, and aided by the necessary Government officials, called *fonctionnaires*, (fāw k-si-āw-NEHR).

Each general district outside Noumea is supervised by what the French call a *gendarme* (zhāh-DARM), a combined police officer and administrator. The *gendarme* holds the rank of sergeant in the French army and is saluted by soldiers in the local force. He usually makes the rounds of his district by motorcycle. All mining companies and plantations, for example, are supposed to pay wages to their laborers in the presence of the *gendarme*, to avoid later disputes. He also looks after the affairs of the native Caledonians. In Noumea there are special local police. These should not be confused with the *gendarmes*. If a native New Caledonian leaves his tribe, gets a new job or wishes to move his family, he must first get permission from the *gendarme*. Result: There is no love lost between them.

**Sanitary Conditions.** On the whole, you will find New Caledonia a healthy place to be, if you observe a few simple rules.

New Caledonian mosquitoes are very annoying, so you had better take good care of your mosquito net. The giant cockroaches may startle you and also the giant lizards, which grow to be a foot or more long. They

look fierce but are entirely harmless. There are no land snakes.

Your main dangers are in the sea, and here you do have to be somewhat careful. Never fool with a snake in the water if you happen on one, as you are likely to do near the little islands offshore. The sea moccasin which is something like our water moccasin, is the familiar danger. There is some argument about whether it is deadly, but no smart soldier will treat it like a buddy.

People living in the tropics or subtropics are likely to be exposed to hookworm and other intestinal parasites, and to be bothered by dysentery. To check this latter ailment, the natives eat a certain grass which is called "dysentery grass" and is supposed to have a herbaceous effect. Our troops have made not a few noble experiments with this particular variety of hay, and up to date nobody has been hurt, though the record is confused as to whether anybody has been helped. So if you see a crea-



ture eating grass in New Caledonia, don't shoot! It may be the corporal.

There are two sources of infection—drinking impure water and eating uncooked vegetables. The Noumea water has been approved by American health authorities. Even so, it is wisest to follow the example of local people and always use bottled or boiled water, or safer yet, drink water only from out of chlorinated lister bags in American army camps. The water in the mountain streams (this information for the benefit of hikers in case of an emergency) is usually pure. In the northwest part of the island the water is said to have a high mineral content which is likely to keep a soldier doing a marathon to the rear. So drink easy!

Another small precaution; it is wisest to wear shoes when you walk on coral and keep away from it while swimming. Cuts from coral can become badly infected.

Skin infections are common and there is some leprosy. Known lepers have been carefully segregated in one sector of the island: There is a high rate of venereal disease with the worst infection among the Javanese women. Venereal diseases were not known in the Pacific islands before the coming of the white man although there was a mild equivalent called "yaws" which is still prevalent among the native peoples. In modern times syphilis and



gonorrhea have been spreading, especially by way of the ports and the laborers' quarters. Our troops have learned not to take chances.

Throughout New Caledonia toilet facilities are very primitive by our standards. This is even true in the town of Noumea. No closed-in sewerage system exists anywhere in New Caledonia. Take precautions against possible infections.

#### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**Money.** New Caledonia has already shifted to a local currency system. The local currency has been pegged at 43 Noumea (paper) francs to the dollar. There is very little metal money or token coinage remaining on the island. The money units are the *franc* (FRAH) and the *centime* (one hundredth part of a franc; pronounced "sah-TEEM"). There are paper notes of five, twenty, one hundred, and five hundred franc denominations. The coin values are:

5 centimes (copper)=a little over  $\frac{1}{10}$  U. S. cent (often called a *sou*).

10 centimes (copper)=a little over  $\frac{1}{5}$  U. S. cent.

25 centimes (silver)=a little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  U. S. cent.

50 centimes (silver)=a little over 1 U. S. cent.

1 franc (silver)=a little over 2 U. S. cents.

2 francs (silver)=a little over 4 U. S. cents.

You are also likely to come up against Australian money in this region. The Australian pound (£A) is officially set at three-quarters of the value of the British pound sterling (£). At the latest reckoning, one £A is worth somewhat over 3 U. S. dollars. The Australian



money units are as follows: the pound, which equals 20 shillings, or about U. S. \$3.20; the shilling, which equals 12 pennies or pence, about U. S. 16 cents; two and six-pence or halfcrown; the penny, worth about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cents. The Australians use English-type coins and notes. The coins are the half-penny (hay'pnce); penny; threepence (thruppence); sixpence; shilling; two shillings, or florin. The notes are worth 10 shillings, 1 pound, 5 pounds, and 10 pounds.

**Time.** The calendar and method of telling time follow French customs. The following are the days of the week: Monday is *lundi*; Tuesday, *mardi*; Wednesday, *mercredi*; Thursday, *jeudi*; Friday, *vendredi*; Saturday, *samedi*; and Sunday is *dimanche*. (See page 48.)

Official French time, as is official U. S. Army time, is reckoned by the European clock, which counts the hours after noon as 13, 14, 15, and so on, making midnight 24 o'clock.

In New Caledonia, when you wake up, it is still *yesterday* in the United States. At 8 a. m. on Monday in New Caledonia, it will be 4 p. m. (Standard Time) Sunday in New York and 1 p. m. Sunday in San Francisco. The time is 16 hours ahead of the eastern seaboard (Standard Time) and 19 hours ahead of the Pacific Coast.

**Weights and Measures.** In New Caledonia, the French metric system is used in reckoning distances and other measures. This is as follows:

#### Lengths

- 1 kilometer=about six-tenths miles.
- 1 meter=about 39 inches.
- 1 centimeter=about four-tenths of an inch.
- 1 millimeter=about a twenty-fifth of an inch.

#### Weights

- 1 metric ton=2204.62 pounds.
- 1 quintal=220.46 pounds.
- 1 kilogramme, or kilo=two and a fifth pounds (2.2046 pounds.)
- 1 gramme=15.432 grains, or 0.0353 ounces.

#### Capacity

- 1 hectoliter=100 liters=2.838 U. S. bushels, or 26.418 U. S. gallons.
- 1 liter=61.025 cubic inches=1.0567 liquid quarts.

#### Area

- 1 hectare=10,000 square meters=2.471 acres.
- 1 square kilometer=0.3861 square mile.



## HINTS ON PRONOUNCING FRENCH

THESE are pronunciation hints to help you in listening to the French language records which have been supplied to your troop unit. They will also help you with the pronunciation of additional words and phrases given in the vocabulary below, which are not included in the record.

There is nothing very difficult about French except that, as in English, many words are not pronounced as they are spelled. Therefore, the instructions and vocabulary below are not based on the written French language, but are a simplified system of representing the language as it *sounds*. This system contains letters for all the sounds you *must* make to be understood. It does *not* contain letters for some of the sounds you will hear, but it will give you enough to get by on, both listening and speaking.

So that you may be able to read the familiar words you will see, the French spelling of each word and phrase is given in parentheses.

### Here Are a Few Simple Rules To Help You

**1. Accents.** You know what the accented syllable of a word is, of course. It is the syllable which is spoken louder than the other syllables in the same word. We

will show the accented (loud) syllables in capital letters and unaccented syllables in small letters. French is not as consistent as English is about accenting the same syllable in the same word in every sentence. However, you will help yourself get the "feel" of French if you speak the part of the word louder which we write here in capital letters.

**2. Vowels.** These are the kinds of sounds we represent in English by *a, e, i, o, u, ah, ay*, etc. Just follow the key below and you will have no trouble.

AH or ah equals the *a* in *father*. Example: *la GAHR* (la gare) meaning "railroad station."

A or a equals a sound between the *a* of *fat* and the *a* of *father*. Listen carefully for it on the record. Example: *ma-DAM* (madame) meaning "madam."

AW or aw equals the *aw* in *law*, but not so drawled. Example: *PAWR* (porc) meaning "pork."

AY or ay equals the *ay* in *day*, but not so drawled. Example: *LAY* (lait) meaning "milk."

EE or ee equals the *ee* in *feet*. Example: *deez-WEET* (dix-huit) meaning "eighteen."

EH or eh equals the *e* in *get*. Example: *SEHL* (sel) meaning "salt."



EU or eu is like the *i* in *bird* said with the lips rounded as though about to say the *oo* in *boo*. Example:  
*lays EU* (les oeufs) meaning "eggs."

OH or oh equals the *o* in *go*, but not so drawled. Example:  
*LOH* (l'eau) meaning "water."

OO or oo equals the *oo* in *boor*. Example: *OO* (où) meaning "where."

U or u equals the *i* in *machine* said with the lips rounded as though about to say the *oo* in *boo*. Example:  
*ehk-SKU-zay MWAH* (excusez-moi) meaning "excuse me."

UH or uh equals the *u* in *bur*. Example: *ka-RUHT* (carottes) meaning "carrots"

**3. The nose sounds.** Four of the vowels above are also pronounced through the nose. This is indicated by a wavy line over the vowel to be "nasalized" (pronounced through the nose), like this (*~*). To hear what this nasal pronunciation sounds like, hold your nose and say the syllable *ma* (with *a* equalling the *a* in *cat*). You have just said the French word for *hand*. Now hold your nose again and say *maw*. You have just said the French word for *my*. These words would be written *MÃ* (main) and *MÃW* (mon). The same "through the nose" pronunciation is given to the vowels written *ÃH* and *UH*. (Example: *kÃW-MÃH* (comment) meaning "how" and *UH*

(un) meaning "one." REMEMBER, EVERY TIME A WAVY LINE IS OVER A VOWEL IT MUST BE PRONOUNCED THROUGH THE NOSE.

**4. Consonants.** The consonants are all the sounds that are not vowels. Pronounce them just as you know them in English. The only strange combination of letters you must note is the *zh*—which equals the *sound* written *s* in the middle of the English word *pleasure*.

#### LIST OF MOST USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

HERE is a list of the most useful words and phrases you will need in French. You should learn these by heart. They are the words and phrases included on the French language records, and appear here in the order they occur on the records.

#### Greetings and General Phrases

[English—Simplified French Spelling]

Good morning or Good day—

*BAW ZHOOR* (*bon jour*)

Good evening—*BAW SWAHR*

(*bon soir*)

How are you?—*kÃW-MÃH*

*TA-ay VOO* (*comment allez-vous*)

Sir—*muhr-YEU* (*monsieur*)

Madam—*ma-DAM* (*madame*)

Miss—*mad-mwah-ZEHL* (*mademoiselle*).

Please—*veel von PLAY* (*s'il vous plaît*)

Thank you — *MEHR-SEE* (*merci*)

Excuse me—*e h k-S K U-x a y*  
 MWAH (*excusez-moi*)  
 Yes—WEE (*oui*)  
 No—NAW (*non*)  
 Do you understand?—*kāw-  
 PRUH-nay VOO* (*compre-  
 nez-vous*)

I don't understand—*zhsh nuh*  
 KAW-*PRAH* pah (*je ne  
 comprends pas*)  
 Speak slowly, please—*PAR-lay*  
 LAH-i-mah, *seel roo PLAY*  
 (*parlez lentement, s'il vous  
 plaît*)

#### Location

Where is—OO AY (*où est*)  
 the restaurant—*luh rehsh-toh-  
 RAH* (*le restaurant*)  
 Where is the restaurant?—OO  
 AY *luh rehsh-toh-RAH* (*où  
 est le restaurant*)  
 the hotel—*law-TEHL*  
 (*l'hôtel*)  
 Where is the hotel?—OO AY  
*law-TEHL* (*où est l'hôtel*)  
 the railroad station—*la  
 GAHR* (*la gare*)

Where is the railroad station—  
 OO AY *la GAHR* (*où est  
 la gare*)  
 the toilet—*la twah-LEHT*  
 (*la toilette*)  
 Where is the toilet?—OO AY  
*la twah-LEHT* (*où est la  
 toilette*)

#### Directions

To the right—*a DRWAHT* (*à  
 droite*)  
 To the left—*a GOHSH* (*à  
 gauche*)  
 Straight ahead—*roo DRWAH*  
 (*tout droit*)

Show me, please—*MAW-tray*  
 MWAH, *seel roo PLAY*  
 (*montrez-moi, s'il vous plaît*)

(If you are driving and ask the distance to another town, it will be given you in kilometers, not miles.)

Kilometer—*KEE-loh-MEHTR* (*kilomètre*)

One kilometer equals  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile.

#### Numbers

[You need to know the numbers]

|                                      |                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| One— <i>ŪH</i> ( <i>un</i> )         | Thirteen— <i>TREHZ</i> ( <i>treize</i> )             |
| Two— <i>DEU</i> ( <i>deux</i> )      | Fourteen— <i>ka-TAWRZ</i> ( <i>quar-<br/>torze</i> ) |
| Three— <i>TRWAH</i> ( <i>trois</i> ) | Fifteen— <i>KĀZ</i> ( <i>quinze</i> )                |
| Four— <i>KATR</i> ( <i>quatre</i> )  | Sixteen— <i>SEHZ</i> ( <i>seize</i> )                |
| Five— <i>SĀK</i> ( <i>cinq</i> )     | Seventeen— <i>dee-SEHT</i> ( <i>dix-<br/>sept</i> )  |
| Six— <i>SEES</i> ( <i>six</i> )      | Eighteen— <i>deez-WEET</i> ( <i>dix-<br/>huit</i> )  |
| Seven— <i>SEHT</i> ( <i>sept</i> )   | Nineteen— <i>deez-NUHF</i> ( <i>dix-<br/>neuf</i> )  |
| Eight— <i>WEET</i> ( <i>huit</i> )   | Twenty— <i>VĀ</i> ( <i>vingt</i> )                   |
| Nine— <i>NUHF</i> ( <i>neuf</i> )    |                                                      |
| Ten— <i>DEES</i> ( <i>dix</i> )      |                                                      |
| Eleven— <i>AWZ</i> ( <i>onze</i> )   |                                                      |
| Twelve— <i>DOOZ</i> ( <i>douze</i> ) |                                                      |

(For "twenty-one," "thirty-one," and so on, you say "twenty and one," and "thirty and one," but for "twenty-two," "twenty-three" and so on, you just add the words for "two" and "three" after the words for "twenty" and "thirty" as we do in English.)

|                                                         |                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Twenty-one— <i>VĀ-tay ŪH</i> ( <i>vingt<br/>et un</i> ) | Thirty— <i>TRĀHT</i> ( <i>rente</i> )       |
| Twenty-two— <i>VĀ DEU</i> ( <i>vingt-<br/>deux</i> )    | Forty— <i>ka-RAHT</i> ( <i>quarante</i> )   |
|                                                         | Fifty— <i>ā-KAHT</i> ( <i>cinquante</i> )   |
|                                                         | Sixty— <i>aw-a-SAHT</i> ( <i>soixante</i> ) |

("Seventy," "eighty," "ninety" are said "sixty ten," "four twenties," and "four twenties ten.")

Seventy—*swa-sāh DEES* (soixante dix)  
 Eighty—*ka-treh-V ī* (quatre-vingts)  
 Ninety—*ka-treh-vā - DEES* (quatre-vingt-dix)  
 One hundred—*SĀH* (cent)  
 One thousand—*MEEL* (mille)

# Designation

What's this—*kehS kuh SAY* (qu'est-ce que c'est)  
 What's that—*kehS kuh SAY kuh SA* (qu'est-ce que c'est ça)  
 I want—*shuh voo-DRAY* (je voudrai)  
 some cigarettes—*day see-ga-REHT* (des cigarettes)  
 I want cigarettes—*shuh voo-DRAY day see-ga-REHT* (je voudrai des cigarettes)  
 to eat—*māh-ZHAY* (manger)  
 I want to eat—*shuh voo-DRAY māh-ZHAY* (je voudrai manger)

# Food

Bread—*PĀ* (pain)  
 Butter—*BEUR* (beurre)  
 Soup—*SOOP* (soupe)  
 Meat—*see-ĀHD* (viande)  
 Eggs—*layz-EU* (les oeufs)  
 Vegetables—*lay-GUM* (légumes)  
 Potatoes—*puhm-duh-TEHR* (pomme de terre)  
 String beans—*a-ree-KOH VEHR* (haricots verts)  
 Cabbage—*SHOO* (choux)  
 Cauliflowers—*h o o - FLEUR* (choux-fleur)  
 Carrots—*ka-RUHT* (carottes)  
 Peas—*puh-TEE PWAH* (petits pois)  
 Salad—*sa-LAD* (salade)  
 Sugar—*SUKR* (sucre)  
 Salt—*SEHL* (sel)  
 Pepper—*PWAHVR* (poivre)

Lamb—*moo-TĀW* (mouton)  
 Veal—*VOH* (veau)  
 Pork—*PAWR* (porc)  
 Beef—*BUHF* (boeuf)  
 Milk—*LAY* (lait)  
 Drinking water—*LOH puh-TABL* (l'eau potable)  
 A cup of tea—*un TAHS duh TAY* (une tasse de thé)  
 A cup of coffee—*un TAHS duh ka-FAY* (une tasse de café)  
 A glass of beer—*un VEHR duh bee-YEHR* (un verre de bière)  
 A bottle of wine—*un boo-TAY duh VĀ* (une bouteille de vin)  
 Some matches—*day x a-lu-MEHT* (des allumettes)

To find out how much things cost you say:

How much—*ka-w-bee-Ā* (combien)

(The answer will be given in *francs*, *sous* and *centimes*. Four centimes equal one *sous*, twenty *sous* or one hundred centimes equal one *franc*.)

Centime—*saĥ-TEEM* (centime) Franc—*FRĀH* (franc)  
 Sous—*SOO* (sous)

# Time

What time is it?—*KEHL EUR ay-TEEL* (quelle heure est-il?)  
 Two o'clock—*eel ay DEUZ EUR* (il est deux heures)  
 Ten past two—*DEUZ eur DEES* (deux heures dix)  
 Quarter past five—*SĪK eur nĥ KAR* (cinq heures un quart)  
 Half past six—*SEES eur ay duh-MEE* (six heures et demie)  
 Quarter of eight—*WEET eur MWĀ luh KAR* (huit heures moins le quart)  
 Three minutes to nine—*NUHV eur MWĀ TRWAH* (neuf heures moins trois)

At what hour—a KEHL EUR  
(à quelle heure)

begins—kuh-MĀHS (com-  
mence)

movie—luh see-nay-MA (le  
cinéma)

What time does the movie  
start?—a KEHL EUR kuh-  
MĀHS luh se-nay-MA (à  
quelle heure commence le  
cinéma)

#### Days of the Week

Sunday—dee-MĀSH (di-  
manche)

Monday—LŪH-dee (lundi)

Tuesday—MAHR-ūee (mardi)

Wednesday—MEHR-kruh-dee  
(Mercredi)

#### Useful Phrases

What is your name?—kāv-  
MĀH 100z A-puh-lay VOO  
(Comment vous appelez-vous)

My name is—juh ma-  
PEHL ——— (je m'appelle  
———)

the train—luh TRĀ (le train)  
leaves—PAR (part)

When does the train leave?—  
a KEHL EUR PAR luh TRĀ  
(à quelle heure part le  
train)

Yesterday—ee-YEHR (hier)

Today—ah-zhoord-WEE (au-  
jourd'hui)

Tomorrow—duh-MĀ (demain)

Thursday—ZHEU-dee (jeudi)

Friday—VĀH-druh-dee (Ven-  
dredi)

Saturday—SAM-dee (Samedi)

How do you say table in  
French?—kāv-MĀH DEET-  
voo (table) ā frah-SAY (Com-  
ment dites-vous (table) en  
Français)

Goodbye—oh ruh-VWAHR  
(au revoir)



#### ADDITIONAL WORDS AND PHRASES

[English—French]

#### Surroundings—Natural Objects

bank (of river)—luh ree-VAZH  
(le rive)

darkness—l a w b-ekn-ree-TAY  
(l'obscurité)

light—la lum-YEHR (la lu-  
mière)

desert—luh-deh-ZEHR (le dé-  
sert)

field—luh SHĀH (le champ)

fire—luh FEU (le feu)

forest—la jau-RAY (la forêt)

grass—LEHRB (l'herbe)

the ground—luh tnh-RĪ (le  
terrain)

ravine—luh ja-VĪ (le ravin)

hill—la kav-LEEN (la colline)

ice—la GLAS (la glace)

jungle—la BROOS (la brousse)

lake—luh LAK (le lac)

the moon—la LUN (la lune)

mountain—la māw-TANyuh  
(la montagne)

the ocean—law-say-ĀH  
(l'océan)

rain—la plu-EE (la pluie)

snow—la NEZH (la neige)

spring—la SOORS (la source)

water hole—luh puw-DOH (le  
point d'eau)

the stars—layz ay-TWAHL (les  
étoiles)

the river—la reev-YEHR (la  
rivière)

stream—luh ru-ee-SOH (le  
ruisseau)

the sun—luh soh-LAY (le soleil)

wind—luh VĀH (le vent)

day—luh ZHOOR (le jour)

day after tomorrow—a-PREH  
duh-MĀ (après demain)

day before yesterday—a-VĀHT-  
YEHR (avant-hier)

evening—luh SWAHR (le soir)

month—luh MWAH (le mois)

night—la NWEH (la nuit)

week—la suh-MEHN (la se-  
maine)

year—la-NAY (l'année)

January—zah-ree-AY (janvier)

February—fay-ree-AY (février)

March—*MAHRS* (mars)  
 April—*a-VREEL* (avril)  
 May—*MAY* (mai)  
 June—*zhoo-Ä* (juin)  
 July—*zhwee-YAY* (juillet)  
 August—*OO* or *OOT* (août)  
 September—*schp-TÄHBR* (septembre)

October—*awh-TAWBR* (Octobre)  
 November—*nah-VÄHBR* (novembre)  
 December—*day-SÄHBR* (décembre)

#### Relationships

boy—*luh gar-SÄW* (le garçon)  
 brother—*luh FREHR* (le frère)  
 child—*LAH-FÄH* (l'enfant)  
 daughter—*la FEE* (la fille)  
 family—*la fu-MEE* (la famille)  
 father—*luh PEHR* (le père)  
 husband—*luh ma-REE* (le mari)  
 girl—*la ZHEUN FEE* (jeune fille)  
 man—*LAWM* (l'homme)  
 mother—*la MEHR* (la mère)  
 sister—*la SEUR* (la sœur)  
 son—*luh FEES* (le fils)  
 woman or wife—*la FAM* (la femme)

#### Human Body

arms—*lay BRAH* (les bras)  
 body—*luh KAWR* (le corps)  
 back—*luh DOH* (le dos)  
 cat—*law-RAY* (l'oreille)  
 cats—*layz aw-RAY* (les oreilles)  
 eye—*LEUEE* (l'œil)  
 eyes—*layz YEU* (les yeux)  
 finger—*luh DWAH* (le doigt)  
 foot—*luh pee-AY* (le pied)  
 hair—*lay shuh-VEU* (les cheveux)  
 hand—*la MÄ* (la main)  
 head—*la TEHT* (la tête)  
 leg—*la JÄHB* (la jambe)  
 mouth—*la BOOSH* (la bouche)  
 neck—*luh KOO* (le cou)  
 nose—*luh NAY* (le nez)  
 teeth—*lay DÄH* (les dents)  
 toe—*luh DWÄHD pee-AY* (le doigt du pied)

#### House and Furniture

bed—*luh LEE* (le lit)  
 blanket—*la koo-vehr-TUR* (la couverture)  
 chair—*la SHEHZ* (la chaise)  
 door—*la PAWRT* (la porte)  
 house—*la may-ZÄW* (la maison)  
 kitchen—*la kwee-ZEEN* (la cuisine)  
 mosquito net—*la moor-kee-TAYR* (la moustiquaire)  
 room—*la SHÄHBR* (la chambre)  
 stairs—*lay-skal-YAY* (l'escalier)  
 stove (cooking place)—*luh PWAHL* (le poêle)  
 table—*la TABL* (la table)  
 toilet (or sanitary facilities)—*luh la-ra-BOH* (le lavabo) or *la la-TREEN* (la latrine)  
 wall—*luh MUR* (le mur)  
 window—*la fuh-NEHTR* (la fenêtre)

#### Food and Drink—Tobacco

cucumbers—*luh kahw-KÄWBR* (le concombre)  
 fish—*luh pwah-SÄW* (le poisson)  
 food—*la noo-ree-TUR* (la nourriture)  
 fruit—*luh froo-EE* (le fruit)  
 grapes—*luh ray-ZÄ* (le raisin)  
 lemon—*luh see-TRÄW* (le citron)  
 melon—*luh meh-LÄW* (le melon)  
 watermelon—*la pahs-TEHK* (la pastèque)  
 orange—*law-RÄHZH* (l'orange)  
 orange juice—*Z H U d a w-RÄHZH* (jus d'orange)  
 pipe—*la PEEP* (la pipe)  
 radishes—*luh ra-DEE* (le radis)  
 rice—*luh REE* (le riz)  
 steak—*le bij-TEHK* (bifteck)  
 tobacco—*luh ru-BAK* (le tabac)  
 tomatoes—*luh tok-MAHT* (la tomate)  
 turnip—*luh nu-VAY* (le navet)

# Surrundings

bridge—*luh PAW* (le pont)  
church—*lay GLEEZ* (l'église)  
town or city—*la VEEL* (la ville)  
market—*luh mar-SHAY* (le marché)  
path (trail, pass)—*luh sah-YAY* (le sentier)  
post office—*luh bu-ROH duh PAWST* (le bureau de poste)

police post—*la pawst duh puh-LEES* (la poste de police)  
road—*la ROOT* (la route)  
shop (store)—*la boo-TEEK* (la boutique) or *luh ma-ga-ZA* (le magasin)  
street—*la RU* (la rue)  
village—*luh veel-AZH* (le village)  
well—*luh PWEE* (le puits)

# Animals

animal—*la-nee-MAL* (l'animal)  
bird—*luwa-ZOH* (l'oiseau)  
camel—*luh sha-MOH* (le chameau)  
cat—*luh SHA* (le chat)  
chicken (hen)—*luh poo-LAY* (le poulet)  
cow—*la VASH* (la vache)  
dog—*luh SHĀ* (le chien)  
donkey—*LAN* (l'âne)  
duck—*luh ka-NAR* (le canard)  
burrow—*luh boo-rec-KOH* (le bouriouor)  
goat—*la SHEHVR* (la chèvre)

horse—*luh shuh-VAL* (le cheval)  
mouse—*luh soo-REE* (le souris)  
mule—*luh moo-LAY* (le mulet)  
pig—*luh koh-SHĀW* (le cochon)  
rabbit—*luh la-PĀ* (le lapin)  
rat—*luh RA* (le rat)  
sheep—*la bray-BEE* (la brebis)  
snake—*luh sehr-PĀH* (le serpent)  
scorpion—*luh shawr-pee-ĀW* (le scorpion)

# Insects

flies—*lay MOOSH* (les mouches)  
fleas—*lay POOS* (les puces)  
mosquitoes—*lay moos-TEEK* (les moustiques)

lice—*lay POO* (les poux)  
spider—*la-rehn-YAY* (l'araignée)

bedbugs—*lay pu-NEHZ* (les punaises)

# Trades and Occupations

baker—*luh boo-lāw-ZHAY* (le boulanger)  
barber—*luh kwah-FEUR* (le coiffeur)  
blacksmith—*luh jawr-zhuh-RAW* (le forgeron)  
butcher—*luh boo-SHAY* (le boucher)  
cook—*luh kwee-zeen-YAY* (le cuisinier)

doctor—*luh dawh-TEUR* (le docteur) or *luh mayd SĀ* (le médecin)  
farmer—*luh fehr-mee-YAH* (le fermier)  
mechanic—*luh may-ke-nees-YĀ* (le mécanicien)  
shoemaker—*luh kawr-duhn-YAY* (le cordonnier)  
tailor—*luh ta-YEUR* (le tailleur)

# Numbers

first—*puhm-YAY* (premier)  
second—*seh-KĀWD* (second)  
third—*trwahz-YEHM* (troisième)  
fourth—*kar-rec-YEHM* (quatrième)  
fifth—*sāk-ee-YEHM* (cinquième)  
sixth—*seex-YEHM* (sixième)

seventh—*seht-YEHM* (septième)  
eighth—*wees-YEHM* (huitième)  
ninth—*neuv-YEHM* (neuvième)  
tenth—*deez-YEHM* (dixième)  
eleventh—*āwz-YEHM* (onzième)  
twelfth—*doos-YEHM* (douzième)

# Clothing

belt—*la sū-TUR* (la ceinture)  
boots—*lay BUHT* (les bottes)

coat—*luh pard-SU* (le pardessus)

gloves—lay GAH (les gants)  
 hat—luh sha-POH (le chapeau)  
 necktie—la kra-VAT (la cravate)  
 shirt—la shuh-MEEZ (la chemise)  
 shoes—lay shaw-SUR (les chaussures)

socks—lay shuh-SEHT (les chaussettes)  
 sweater—luh pul-aw-VEHR (le pullover)  
 trousers—le pah-ta-LAW (le pantalon)  
 undershirt—luh tree-KOH (le tricot)

### Adjectives

good—BAW (bon)  
 bad—mau-VAY (mauvais)  
 big—GRAH (grand)  
 small—puh-TEE (petit)  
 sick—ma-LAD (malade)  
 well—bee YAH pawr-TAH (bien portants)  
 I am hungry—ZHAY FA (j'ai faim)  
 I am thirsty—ZHAY SWAHF (j'ai soif)  
 black—NWAHR (noir)  
 white—BLAHK (blanc)  
 red—ROOZH (rouge)  
 blue—BLEU (bleu)  
 green—VEHR (vert)  
 yellow—ZHOHN (jaune)  
 high—OH (haut)  
 low—BAH (bas)  
 deep—proh-FAW (profond)  
 shallow—poh proh-FAW (pas profond)

cold—FRAW (froid)  
 hot—SHOH (chaud)  
 wet—mou-YAY (mouillé)  
 dry—SEHK (sec)  
 expensive—SHEHR (cher)  
 cheap—baw mar-SHAY (bon marché)  
 empty—VEED (vide)  
 full—PLAH (plein)  
 long—LAH (long)  
 short—KOOR (court)  
 ready—PREH (prêt)  
 clean—PRUHR (propre)  
 dirty—SAL (sale)  
 old—rec-YEU (vieux)  
 new—noo-VOH (nouveau)  
 young—ZHEUN (jeune)  
 other—OHTR (autre)  
 happy, contented—KAH-TAH (contents)

### Pronouns, etc.

I—ZHUH (je)  
 we—NOO (nous)  
 you—VOO (vous)  
 he—EEL (il)  
 she—EHL (elle)  
 they—EEL (ils)  
 this—SUH (ce) masculine  
 SEHT (cette) feminine  
 these—SAY (ces)  
 that—SUH (ce) masculine  
 SEHT (cette) feminine  
 or more definite—SUH . . .  
 LA (ce . . . là) masculine  
 SEHT . . . LA (cette . . . là) feminine  
 those—SAY (ces). More definite, SAY . . . LA (ces . . . là)  
 my, mine—MAW (mon)  
 our, ours—NOH (nos)  
 his, hers—SEH (se) masculine,  
 SA (sa) feminine  
 your, yours—VOH (vos)  
 their, theirs—LEUR (leur)  
 who—KEE (qui)  
 what—KUH (que)  
 how many—kah-bee-ah (combien)  
 how far—KEHL dee-STAH (quelle distance)  
 somebody—keh-KUH (quelqu'un)  
 anyone—keh-KAHK (quelconque)  
 everybody—too luh MAWD (tout le monde)  
 something—keh-kah-SHOZH (quelque chose)

### Prepositions

for—POOR (pour)  
 from—DUH (de)  
 in—DAH (dans)  
 of—DUH (de)  
 on—SUR (sur)  
 to—A (à)  
 with—a-VEHK (avec)

### Adverbs

above—oh deh-SU (au dessus)  
 again—ah-KAWR (encore)  
 behind—dehr-VEHR (derrière)  
 beside—a kah-TAY (à côté)  
 below—oh deh-SOO (au dessous)

enough—*a-SAY* (assez)  
 far—*luw-TAH* (lointain)  
 here—*ee-SEE* (ici)  
 in front—*ah FAS* (en face)  
 less—*MW.I* (moins)  
 more—*PLU* (plus)  
 much—*boh-KOO* (beaucoup)

near—*vugh-Z.I* (voisin)  
 on that side—*duh suh koh-TAY*  
*la* (de ce côté là)  
 on this side—*duh suh koh-TAY*  
*see* (de ce côté ci)  
 there—*la* (là)  
 very—*TREH* (très)

#### Conjunctions

and—*AY* (et)  
 but—*MAY* (mais)  
 if—*SEE* (si)

or—*OO* (ou)  
 that—*KUH* (que)

#### Points of the Compass

north—*NAWR* (nord)  
 south—*SUD* (sud)

east—*EHST* (est)  
 west—*WEHST*, (ouest)

#### Phrases for Every Day

What date is today?—*KEHL ZHOOR ay-TEEL* (Quel jour est-il?)  
 The fifth of June, etc.—*luh S.IK xhoo-I* (le cinq juin)  
 What day of the week?—*KEHL ZHOOR duh la suh-MEHN?* (Quel jour de la semaine?)  
 Tuesday, etc.—*MAHR-dee* (mardi)

Come here—*vuh-NAYZ ee-SEE* (Venez-ici)  
 Come quickly—*xuh-NAY VEET* (Venez vite)  
 Go quickly—*a-LAY VEET* (Allez vite)  
 Who are you?—*KEE eht VOO* (Qui êtes-vous?)  
 What do you want?—*KUH voo-LAY VOO* (Que voulez-vous?)

Where is the nearest town?—*OO AY la VEEL la PLU PRUHS* (Où est la ville la plus proche?)

Be careful!—*FEHT a-tis-YAW* (Faites attention!)

Where can I sleep?—*OO PWEEZH dauw-MEER* (Où puis-je dormir?)

Wait a minute!—*UH moh-MAH* (Un moment!)

I haven't any money—*ZHUH NAY PAH dur-ZAH* (Je n'ai pas d'argent)

Give me some drinking water—*duh-NAY MWAH duh LOH a BWAHR* (Donnez-moi de l'eau à boire)

Give me some food—*duh-NAY MWAH keh-l-kuh-SHOHZ a nah-ZHAY* (Donnez-moi quelque chose à manger)

How far is the nearest spring?—*a KEHL dee-STAH* suh TROOV la SOORS la plu PRUHS (À quelle distance se trouve la source la plus proche)

What is the name of this place?—*hah-MAH sa-PEHL seht ah-DRWAH* (Comment s'appelle cet endroit?)

I have cigarettes—*ZHAY day see-gu-REHT* (J'ai des cigarettes)

I am sick—*ZHUH SWEE ma-LAD* (Je suis malade)

I am an American soldier—*ZHUH SWEEZ uh roh-Da a-may-ree-K.I* (Je suis un soldat Américain)

I am your friend—*ZHUH SWEE VUHTR a-MEE* (Je suis votre ami)

#### SPECIAL NOTES ON NEW CALEDONIA

[English—French]

#### Surroundings—Natural Objects

The usual word for stream is borrowed from the English

"creek" and is—*luh KREEK* (le creek)



## Relationships

boy—*luh-gar-SAW* (*le garçon*)

In New Caledonia generally a worker, a native stevedore, a coolie.

woman

In New Caledonia a native (Melanesian) woman is—*la poh-pee-NAY* (*la popinée*)

A Javanese woman, generally a servant, is—*la bah-YOO* (*la bayou*)

A Tonkinese woman, generally a servant, is—*la kah-GAHee* (*la congai*)

## Food and Drink (Note Especially)

watermelon is particularly common—*la pahs-TEHK* (*la pastèque*)

coconut—*la NWAH dnh kah-KOH* (*la noix de coco*)

bananas—*la ba-NAN* (*la banane*)

guava—*la gawee-AV* (*la goyave*)

pineapple—*la-na-NAH* (*l'ananas*)

arrow-roots or yams—*leen-YAM* (*l'igname*)

native lobsters—*la lah-GOOST* (*la langouste*)

oysters—*la HWEETR* (*la huître*)

## Surroundings

In New Caledonia there are no passenger railroads but a passenger bus service known as—*law-toh-BUS* (*l'autobus*)

Pay particular attention to signs warning you of any approaching—*rad-YAY* (*le radar*)

This is a sunken concrete jetty serving as a bridge across

streams, and can break even the springs of a jeep, unless traveled over slowly.

Cable Ferry—*luh BAK* (*le bac*)

Shop, store in New Caledonia generally—*luh STAWR* (*le store*)

ranch—*luh stas-YAW* (*le station*) borrowed from Australia

## NOTES

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1643—O 595186

## Date Due

May 1958

May 1964



PRINTED IN U. S. A.

